Withheld under statutory authority of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C., section 403g)

CPAS NID 84-027-JX 2 February 1984

CODY 58 8

TOP SECRET

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Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

YUGOSLAVIA: Obstacles to Papal Visit

25X1, E.O.13526

The invitation to the Pope was extended in 1980. Since then, Yugoslav officials have expressed increasing wariness over the Pope's political role, particularly his selection of Kuharic as a Cardinal last year.

Comment: Kuharic, who stresses the Croatian Church's role as the sole defender of the Croat nation, probably hopes the Pope's visit will have an emotional impact on Croats similar to that of his visits to Poland. The authorities worry that Kuharic's influence could aggravate traditional Serbo-Croatian animosities. Serbian politicians and the Orthodox clergy are uncomfortable with Kuharic's nationalism. They are insisting that the Pope also visit the site of a concentration camp where the Croatian fascist regime exterminated Serbs during World War II.

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